

United States Army
Brigade Commander
Michael E. Wawrzyniak

Colonel
174th Infantry Brigade
First Army Division East
Effective



Col. Mike Wawrzyniak was commissioned as an Infantry officer from the ROTC program at Marion Military Institute and graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He also holds a Masters of Business Administration from Syracuse University, and master's in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

Following the Officer Basic Course and Ranger School, he was stationed in South Korea serving as platoon leader and company executive officer for B/1-5 Infantry (Mechanized). After the Officer Advanced Course, he was stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., with the 82nd Airborne Division where he served as assistant brigade S3 for 1st Brigade and later commanded Higher Headquarters Company, 2-504 PIR. Following command, his assignments included assistant professor of military science at Syracuse University, comptroller, JTF – East, HQ, First U.S. Army, and later executive officer to the Deputy Commanding General, First U.S. Army.

Upon completion of CGSC at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., he was assigned overseas to the G3 operations staff, HQ, U.S. Army Europe. With the 1st Armored Division, he served as battalion operations officer for 1-36 Infantry (Mech) and subsequently battalion operations officer for 2-37 Armor including deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom in Tall Afar and Ar Ramadi, Iraq. Upon returning from Germany, he served as the professor of military science at the University of Notre Dame.

From June 2008 to November 2010, he commanded 4th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. Under his leadership, the Squadron prepared for and deployed to Farah Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom X. After command, he completed a joint tour at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium serving as an assistant ops officer and as executive officer to the chief of ops and intel. His last assignment was as a student at the Naval War College, Newport, R.I.

Among Col. Wawrzyniak's awards and decorations are the Bronze Star (with 1 Oak Leaf Clusters); Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (with 3 OLCs); Combat Infantryman's Badge; Expert Infantryman's Badge; Ranger Tab, and the Senior Parachutist Badge.

He and his wife, Pam, have been married 20 years and have two children, Adela and Josh